

Semi-Weekly Argus

A Democratic Newspaper.

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JOS. E. ROBINSON, Editor

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SEMI-WEEKLY ARGUS.

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Entered at the Postoffice as Goldsboro as second class mail matter.

Zelaya's plan to put a sub on his job is good, but it doesn't seem to fool Knox.

The President is fortunate; he doesn't have to read his message to Congress.

Still it is an amiable President who can pick out 15,000 soft words for a message.

A real leader is what the Democrats need in Congress and not a windmill.

King Gustaf of Sweden had no right to mix with stevedores until he had a union card.

The loan shark and hookworm should be caged together, and left to fight it out.

The liquor problem is still an issue in Georgia. The problem is where to get it.

President Taft says we are at peace with all the world. Pray, where does Mr. Zelaya live?

This year's corn crop is said to be worth \$1,750,000,000, and all of this talk about pellagra, too!

The things that people wanted to hear about today were put off by Mr. Taft until tomorrow.

It is all right for charity to begin at home, but it is a poor brand that does not get outside.

The price of meat is not only higher than ever, but there seems to be more and larger bones in it.

Owning an entire life insurance company leaves Mr. Morgan at liberty to die whenever he pleases.

The doctors have apparently got mighty well acquainted with the hookworm in a very short while.

Tom Lawson has a new dictionary which enables him to call Taft a "puddled" President.

Mexico has concluded that she cannot afford to do the innocent bystander act in Nicaraguan affairs.

Boss Murphy has to go to Judge Gaynor, for the mayor-elect does not know the way to Tammany Hall.

Mr. Taft says all may look at the tariff, but no one should touch it at present. It has become sacred again.

You hardly realize how much a doctor knows until you read the difficult way they have to call the most commonplace things.

A New York doctor says suicide is the poor man's right. It is something to know that a poor man has a right of any kind in a plutocratic country.

In Chicago there were 500 marriage licenses issued on Thanksgiving Day. Now the question is how many of these people will be thankful next year?

Minister-elect Calhoun should embark in Chicago on a flying machine headed straight without stops to Pekin. Talks to the man in the moon do not count.

Dr. Horace Fletcher rises up to say that in five years it will not be considered respectable to be ill. By that time it will be exparte evidence of non-intelligence.

Congress is not confined to subjects mentioned in the President's message and oratory over other matters may be expected to occur at any time after Christmas.

Constantinople has a million people and great age, but it has no electric lights, no trolley, no water works, no ice plant, but it is to have hello girls and a telephone system.

A "Marathon waltz" was stopped by the officials in Butte, Mont., after a number of couples had danced fourteen hours and several women had been sent to the hospital. Still we talk of the intelligence of this age.

Book your order for sweet cream for Christmas. Order must be placed by Saturday before Christmas or you may miss the best cream, made by Royall's new separator. Phone 169.

SUPREMACY DRAMATIC INCIDENT.

The Nicaraguan crisis has produced one supremely dramatic incident. It was the moment when Senator Serquiere, one of Estrada's astutest diplomats at Washington, reached into his trouser pockets for cab fare and found was ever a time when an ambassador needed dignity and composure it was then. His country's honor, already sorely tried, hung in the balance. His own prestige was at stake, and before a cabman at that. To the most ordinary person of us all the situation would have been trying, but Senator Serquiere, diplomat of Estrada, it was crucial. It was like the lion being stung to death by the gnat.

Once again he plunged into the depths of his gay trappings, but brought forth an empty hand. Then, probably reflecting that well-bred persons, in England at least, don't put their hands in their pockets, he told the cabman who he really was. But, strange to tell, the Jehu remained unimpressed. In hurly-burly American fashion, Senator Diplomat was hurried away to jail and lay there the long night through.

What thoughts must have burned and cracked in the great man's brain! He, a sure-enough diplomat, in a common lock-up! Shade of Talleyrand, how were the mighty fallen! And he was a cousin, too, of Louis Serquiere, consul at New Orleans.

He remembered how Carlos of Britain had been beheaded, and Napoleon held on St. Helena; that a Spanish sovereign had been roasted before his own hearth; that the doughty Don Quixote had been beaten by goatherds, vengeance on the American government locked up for lack of cab fare? Little could he find a hero who had been beheaded, in all the annals of fame, wonder that he chafed and swore foul ment. Had he been shot or beheaded it would have been glorious and martyrlike, but this—why, he could not even recount it as an adventure when he got back home.

Latest reports are that the diplomat is still being handed his food through the bars, while hundreds of his impulsive countrymen are flying to and fro beyond the isthmus.

His example teaches two great lessons: Don't be too proud because of your greatness, and don't ride in a cab unless you have the fare.

COTTON SOARING.

July futures sold in New Orleans at prices over sixteen cents on Friday, and the government's bullish estimate of the crop has rendered fifteen-cent cotton a thrice told tale.

The government says 10,088,000 bales were grown this year. To ascertain the commercial crop we must add linters and repacks. About 500,000 bales should be added on account of the customary cut made by the department of Agriculture in a year's totals. These changes would give a commercial crop ranging between 10,800,000 bales and 11,000,000 bales. The opinions of the best observers of crop movements swing around these figures.

Supply and demand and trade conditions will work out prices based on a crop of the size named, and it is difficult to say what the price of cotton will be later on when it becomes absolutely certain that the crop is three million bales less than the crop of the previous year. The government report is probably the culmination of bullish estimates, and the market will be apt to beg to determine what the price of cotton should be when the commercial crop does not exceed 11,000,000 bales.

The crops in America and Egypt are both very short. The commercial crop of last year in this country was 13,400,000 bales and Egypt had a normal crop, and yet the product, large as it was, was readily absorbed. The joint product of America and Egypt will be about 4,000,000 bales less this year than it was last year, and the price is to be adjusted to this great discrepancy in the world's supply.

TERRIBLE WRECK REPORTED.

Six Are Said to Be Dead on Lake Shore Railroad.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 14.—The Twentieth Century Limited, the Lake Shore's fastest train, is wrecked a short distance west of Northeast, Pa. At the Lake Shore dispatcher's offices here it is reported that six passengers were killed.

The wires are in bad condition on account of the storm, and up to 2 a. m. it had been impossible to get into Northeast.

The wreck occurred at 11 p. m., Eastern time, last night.

A special train with doctors has wreck.

Left Buffalo for the scene of the Cleveland, O., Dec. 14.—A special Lake Shore train bearing road officials and surgeons left Collingwood a suburb, for Northeast, Pa., at 1 a. m. today. From this it is believed that many are killed.

EIGHTEEN BLOCKS BURNED.

Two Million and Half Fire at Santiago, Chile, Sunday.

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 13.—A disastrous fire occurred last night in the city of Valdivia. Eighteen blocks of buildings were destroyed and thousands rendered homeless. The loss is estimated at about 7,000,000 pesos, \$2,500,000.

Advertisements in the ARGUS

BIG COTTON DEALS.

Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son

Again Make Large Purchase in This City.

Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son, of Wilmington, Valuable Factors in the Cotton Trade of This City As Well As State.

Last year The Argus chronicled the sale by Messrs. Best & Thompson, of this city, to Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son, of Wilmington, of several thousand bales of cotton in one delivery, which was one of the largest if not the largest single transaction in cotton ever negotiated in this city. We spoke then of the value of Messrs. Best & Thompson to Goldsboro as a cotton market; their ever watchful and aggressive policy in keeping the price of the fleecy staple on this market up to the highest notch. That they did this—and are still pursuing such a policy has been of inestimable value to the farmers of this section as well as to the general trade of Goldsboro; for it does help a town for the farmers contiguous to it to know that whenever they have cotton to sell they will always find competitive and spirited buyers in such towns who will push the price up to the highest margin. This Messrs. Best & Thompson can always be relied upon to do, in consequence of which they have this season bought seven thousand bales of the twelve thousand, aggregate, sold thus far on this market.

But, giving Messrs. Best & Thompson due credit for all they are entitled to in the premises, there is a cause lying back of all this to which we feel, in justice, we should give credit in full measure, and that is the fact that this firm knew that they could always find ready takers of their purchases in that long-established and world-renowned firm of Alex Sprunt & Son, of Wilmington, whose cotton trade encompasses the civilized world, and who at their compass in Wilmington load ships with cotton for European and antipodal ports of more capacity than the State of North Carolina produces. And their record is that they keep the price up to the highest limit.

In addition to the big sale made to them last season by Messrs. Best & Thompson, this local firm closed out to them on Friday, on the rise of the market, nineteen hundred bales. This was on Friday evening; and before Saturday evening Messrs. Best & Thompson had purchased seven hundred bales additional, such hustlers are they when cotton is passing.

Goldsboro owes much of the strong cotton market it is to Messrs. Best & Thompson, and to Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son, of Wilmington.

LIST OF UNCLAIMED LETTERS

Remaining in the Postoffice, Goldsboro, Wayne County, N. C. December 12, 1909.

Men's List.

Simuel Allen.

John Banks (2), Fremont Bass, Willie Bryant.

Lewis Cobb, Monroe Carr, Ben Cooley, Emit Cox.

George Dees, Zelle Deem.

C. P. S. Harrison, Samuel Hines, F. O. Holmes, Charlie Hunter, J. J. Hunter.

McKony Kornegay.

Jas. Lulos.

Rever Phowel, J. Siket Pate.

M. W. Roper.

J. L. Sandlin, A. F. Scott, A. F. Summerlin, Eddie Smith, Jasper Smith, Fritz S. Smith.

John C. W. Talton, George Thompson, Marthas Taylor.

Rev. C. B. Waters, Stephen Waters, H. H. Whitley, Jno. T. Williams.

Women's List.

Mrs. Roert Ballocks, Laura B. Bryant, Miss Lizzie Barwell, Miss Mary Briggs, Mrs. E. Bringley.

Mrs. Larra Carter, Miss Lular Croft, Miss Suddie Cox.

Mrs. Mary Derr, Miss Annie Day.

Mrs. Jane Howell, Mrs. Elmer Hall, Miss Georgia Johnson, Rebecca Jones.

Miss Ella Martin, Miss Addie M. Merritt.

Sarah Nellen.

Miss Jurnie Olston.

Mrs. Rebecca Spearman, Martha J. Surry, Mrs. C. Smith.

Mrs. Fannie Teaceys, Florence Thomas.

Mrs. Susan Wadsworth, Mrs. John Wilmont, Miss Laura Woods, Miss J. P. Wright, Mrs. Perry Watson, Mrs. Rebecca Williams.

Persons calling for above letters will please say advertised. Rules and regulations require that one cent be paid on advertised letters.

J. F. DOBSON, Postmaster.

Put a nice ceiling on your kitchen. We will furnish the lumber for 50 cents per hundred. Enterprise Lumber Company.

M. T. DICKINSON, Attorney at Law, GOLDSBORO, N. C.

THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS.

The Old, Old Story Yet Ever New to Childish Hearts the World Over.

We have published this story before, but it is too beautiful to ever grow uninteresting and, in connection with the opening again of our Empty Stocking Fund, we publish it here:

Once a little girl wrote to Charles A. Dana—a great, broad-shouldered, stalwart man—asking him if there really was a Santa Claus. The Argus feels that it cannot do better this afternoon than print here Mr. Dana's reply to little Virginia O'Hanlon. He said:

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy."

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus; but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down what would that prove? Nobody ever saw Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not. But that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen or unseeable in the world."

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else so real as abiding."

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia; nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children."

Mr. Dana was a wise man, a man of affairs and large concerns, a man who detested deceit, who loved truth.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Ninety-Six of the Ninety-Eight Counties Had Institutes Last Year.

News and Observer.

The report of Demonstrator T. B. Parker, of the Department of Agriculture, director of farmers' institutes, on institute work during the past year, has been issued as a bulletin by the department. It contains the lectures delivered before the men's and women's institutes, the Farmers' State Convention, or round-up institute, resolutions adopted at the convention, the farmers' platform, and special articles on orchard spraying, demonstration railway cars with the general reports on the institute work. During the year from December 1, 1908, to December 1, 1909, 247 institutes were held and the department assisted in sixteen after institutes held under the auspices of the land and industrial agents of the Southern Railway. Of the regular institutes 152 were for men, 73 for women, 12 orchard demonstration institutes, two corn judging institutes, one three days' round-up institute. Ninety-three of the ninety-eight counties had institutes, not counting the twelve held by the Southern Railway's representatives. There are farmers' institute committees in ninety-six of the ninety-eight counties, and in a number of counties where more than one institute has been held annually for several years there are also organized local committees.

STEPHEN NOBLE A SUICIDE.

Had Been Drinking Heavily and in Despondent Spirit.

Kinston, N. C., Dec. 13.—Stephen M. Noble committed suicide at his home in Trent township Sunday afternoon by shooting two 32-calibre bullets into his head, producing almost instant death. No reason was given for the act other than he had been drinking heavily and in a fit of despondency took his own life.

Noble was sitting in the room with his mother and his children and sent them out to the woodshed on some pretext and before they had reached the shed they heard the pistol fire twice in quick succession. Hurrying back to the house, they found him on the floor with blood pouring from the two bullet wounds.

He leaves a wife and four children.

MIRACLE AT HIGH POINT.

Miss Bessie Davis Carried Several Feet Under Engine and Unhurt.

High Point, N. C., Dec. 13.—Miss Bessie Davis was knocked down by a passenger train here this afternoon and carried several feet under the engine before the train was stopped. It was a miracle that she escaped alive and with not even a bone broken, and except for the shock she is all right. She was waiting on a freight to pass and attempted to cross the track immediately before the oncoming train. She is a sister-in-law of Mr. S. E. Tucker, of this city.

The chamber of the house of lords is not yet for let.

See Our Christmas Display

FULL OF NEW IDEAS, COMING SURPRISES, HAPPY HITS, NOVEL AND DESIRABLE FEATURES.

You cannot find a better place to get just the right thing for everyone.

Our stock is full of attractions to buyers who appreciate superior and really desirable holiday gifts of the latest design and best quality.

We offer a splendid line of high-grade goods at fairest prices, well adapted to the wants and requirements of our patrons, stocked with most appropriate gifts, inexpensive remembrances and valuable presents.

Prices this year will be as usual—the lowest price possible—on every article. Below we mention a few articles:

Cuff Pins, Locketts, Hatpins, Safety Pins, Spoons, Collar Buttons, Baby Pins, Bar Pins, Chafing Dishes, Jewelry, Cuff Links, Eyeglass Chains, Neck Chains, Cut Glass, Watches, Watch Fobs, Watches, Brooches, Knives, Forks, Novelties, Hatpins of all kinds, Umbrellas—gold and silver, etc.

Call around and let us show you our stock of goods suitable for Christmas gifts. Remember—our prices are right. Engraving free of charge on any goods we sell.

L. D. GIDDENS & SON.

THE NEW BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Truxton King A Story of Graustark By GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

The Pool of Flame By LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

This is the best selling novel in America. If you read novels, or give them as presents, you will naturally want it.

Illustrated by HARRISON FISHER \$1.50

THE HOLIDAY BOOK For 1909

Illustrated by HARRISON FISHER

Illustrated - \$1.50

The Title Market By EMILY POST

A story that appeals to all sorts of American women. A life-like and powerful presentation of the life of an American actress after she marries a title.

Illustrated - \$1.50

THEIR HEARTS' DESIRE By FRANCES FOSTER PERRY

This is the ideal book of the year for Holiday giving. If you see it you'll like it; if you read it, you'll love it.

Boxed, Net \$2.00

Illustrated - \$1.50

AT ALL BOOKSELLERS

DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY, Publishers, NEW YORK CITY

The Island of Regeneration By CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY

An American college girl alone on a desert island with a twentieth century savage; a startling plot, splendidly worked out.

Illustrated - \$1.50

Everybody that wants mules and horses come a running. Just received the finest lot of mules and horses that can be bought in Missouri. Come before they are picked over.

Edgerton & Edgerton, Chestnut Street, West, GOLDSBORO, N. C.

OUR LAUNDRY IS OPEN TO VISITORS at all Times---We Invite You to Inspect our Plant, and Study our Methods of Laundering.

The Goldsboro Steam Laundry, Phone 29. Goldsboro, N. C.